

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR US GR TU

SUBJECT: MORE ON TURKISH MISSILES - OPPOSITION LEADERS SPEAK UP

REF: ATHENS 9998

1. THE ALLEGATIONS THAT THE TURKS HAVE PLACED MISSILES ALONG THE AEGEAN COAST RECEIVED LESS PLAY IN THE ATHENS PRESS ON SEPTEMBER 18 THAN THEY DID YESTERDAY. IN FACT, IN THE PRESS COVERAGE TODAY THE STORY SERVED MORE AS A PEG FOR OPPOSITION LEADERS MAVROS AND PAPANDREOU TO ATTACK THE GOG. UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER (UDC) PRESIDENT MAVROS IN A STATEMENT CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS SECRECY IN THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY AND CALLED FOR PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATION OF THE U.S.-GREEK BASES AGREEMENT BEFORE THE AGREEMENT (STILL UNDER NEGOTIATION) IS SIGNED. LEADER OF THE PANHELLENIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (PASOK) PAPANDREOU REPEATED HIS USUAL ATTACKS AGAINST THE U.S. AND NATO AND CALLED FOR GREECE TO OBTAIN ITS OWN INDEPENDENT NUCLEAR CAPABILITY, CLAIMING NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAN BE

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OBTAINED BY "ONORTHODOX MEANS" (WHICH HE DID NOT

SPECIFY).

2. IN HIS STATEMENT, MAVROS SAID HE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHERE THE MISSILES CAME FROM. THAT TURKEY USED WEAPONS PROVIDED BY THE U.S. AND NATO FOR ITS EXPANSIONIST AIMS WAS WELL-KNOWN FROM THE CYPRUS INVASION. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT, THE QUESTION RAISED BY THE CHARGE OF USING OR EVEN THREATENING TO USE SUCH MISSILES FOR TURKISH EXPANSIONISM, CREATED AN ISSUE OF ENORMOUS DIMENSIONS WHICH CONCERNED WORLD PEACE.

3. THE MAIN THRUST OF MAVROS' STATEMENT, HOWEVER, WAS AN ATTACK ON THE WAY THE GOG CONDUCTED ITS FOREIGN POLICY IN SECRECY AND WITHOUT A REAL DIALOGUE WITH THE OPPOSITION. IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DISCIPLINED MAJORITY, HE SAID, THE COUNTRY'S REGIME WAS "A DICTATORSHIP WITH A PARLIAMENTARY COVER." HE SPECIFICALLY CRITICIZED THE SECRECY WITH WHICH THE CURRENT ROUND OF THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS IS BEING CARRIED OUT AND CALLED FOR THE PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS THE AGREEMENT BEFORE IT IS CONCLUDED. MAVROS ALSO REPEATED HIS CHARGE THAT "GREECE HAS NOTHING TO GAIN FROM SUCH AN AGREEMENT, THE ONLY ONE TO BENEFIT FROM IT IS TURKEY." HE ALLEGED THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE U.S.-GREEK AGREEMENT IS TO SECURE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE U.S.-TURKISH AGREEMENT.

4. PASOK LEADER PAPANDREOU HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 17 AND IN A PREPARED STATEMENT REFERRED TO SENATOR PELL'S RECENT "DISCLOSURE" (SIC) THAT "NUCLEAR" (SIC) MISSILES HAD BEEN MOVED FROM THE TURKISH-SOVIET BORDER TO THE AEGEAN COAST. THIS, HE SAID, AGAIN RAISED THE "ALLIANCE" ISSUE FOR GREECE, SINCE, HE CLAIMED, IT CLEARLY SHOWED THAT THE TRANSFER OF THE MISSILES HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT WITH U.S.-NATO APPROVAL IN A BID TO BRING "ASPHYXIATING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS TO TURKEY."

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5. PAPANDREOU WENT ON TO ATTACK GREECE'S TIES WITH NATO WHICH, HE ARGUED, PROVIDED INADEQUATE DEFENSE FOR GREECE. THEREFORE, HE SAID, GREECE SHOULD DEVELOP A COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT MILITARY FORCE, FULLY EQUIPPED INCLUDING WITH A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. HE SAID THAT OBTAINING A NUCLEAR UMBRELLA WOULD BE DIFFICULT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WAR INDUSTRY WOULD NEED YEARS. ON THE OTHER HADN, HE MAINTAINED, IT IS POSSIBLE TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY

UNORTHODOX MEANS, AND SUCH SEAPONS WULD SERVE AS A
DETERRENT IN CASE GREECE'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY WERE
THREATENED.

6. MAVROS AND PAPADREOU STATEMENTS ARE FRONT PAGE
STORIES IN ALL NEWSPAPERS. AN "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE"
(I.E. A GOVERNMENTAL SPOKESMAN) ISSUED THE FOLLOWING
STATEMENT IN REPLY YESTERDAY EVENING: "THE GOVERNMENT
IS FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE
COUNTRY'S NATIONAL ISSUES WITH A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY
AND COMPREHENSIVE VIGILANCE. AND IT DOES NOT NEED
ADVICE TO FULFILL ITS DUTY. THE GOVERNMENT IS
EXECUTING THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY WITHOUT
SENSATIONALISM, AWARE OF ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEMS
FACING THE NATION AND WITH THE NATIONAL INTEREST AS ITS
ONLY CRITERION. AS FOR THE COMPLAINT OF THE PRINCIPAL
OPPOSITION PARTY (I.E. THE UDC), NOT ONLY HAS THE
GOVERNMENT NEVER REFUSED TO INFORM IT, BUT FREQUENTLY IT
DOES SO ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE."

7. KATHIMERINI (PRO GOVERNMENT) GIVES A CONVOLUTED
EXPLANATION TO DEPUTY SECRETARY ELLSWORTH'S REMARKS IN
RESPONSE TO SENATOR PELL'S QUESTION ABOUT TURKISH MISSILES
(STATE 231143). IN A LEAD, PAGE ONE STORY TODAY,
KATHIMERINI REFERS TO ELLSWORTH'S DENIAL AND STATES
THAT BEYOND THE FACT THAT SUCH A DENIAL WAS NOT AS
CATEGORIC AS IT OUGHT TO BE, IT ALSO PROBABLY CONTAINS
THE ELEMENT OF DECEIT. IT NOTES THAT ELLSWORTH REPLIED
THAT THERE ARE NO MISSILES OF THIS (I.E. PERSHING) TYPE
IN TURKEY AND INTERPRETS THIS AS AN ATTEMPT TO DEFLECT
THE ISSUE. THE STORY SAYS THAT SOME "OBSERVERS",
NOTING THE SPEED WITH WHICH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY
RESPONDED, ATTRIBUTE IT TO ONE OF TWO THINGS:
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(A) HE HAD PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUBJECT AND WAS
PREPARED TO TAKE A CATEGORIC STAND, OR (B) HE DENIED
THE ALLEGATION WITHOUT HAVING INVESTIGATED IT. THE
LATTER POINT IN TURN DEMONSTRATES EITHER FRIVOLOUS
OR DELIVERATE TREATMENT. EXCLUDING FRIVOLITY IN SUCH
A SERIOUS MATTER, KATHIMERINI STATES THAT IT IS
THEN POSSIBLE TO ATTRIBUTE THE DENIAL TO NERVOUSNESS
CAUSED BY A REVELATION WHICH PUTS THE USG IN A
DIFFICULT POSITION BECAUSE IT HAS BECOME PUBLIC OR BE-
CASUE IT MAKES THE QUESTION OF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY
MORE DIFFICULT. THE STORY CONCLUDES BY NOTING THAT
ALTHOUGH THE ISSUE IS DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH NATO,
THERE HAS BEEN NO REACTION FROM THE ALLIANCE.
KUBISCH

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